Power generation and consumption in Assam

399. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state the details of power generation and consumption in Assam during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): The details of power generation and power supply position of Assam during the last three years are given below:

(Figures in Million Units)

Year	Own Generation	Requirement	Availability	Surplus(+)/ Shortage(−) (%)
1999-2000	2599	2868.3	2918.4	(+)50.1(1.7)
2000-2001	2888	3092.9	3332.8	(+)239.9 (7.8)
April-October, 2001	1518	2057.8	2036.3	(−)21.5(1.0)

World Bank comment on India's power sector reforms

400. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Check power theft, says World Bank" as reported in the Statesman dated the 13th October, 2001;

(b) if so, whether the World Bank has been interfering in our power sector reforms; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government on the views of the World Bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The participants including the World Bank in the International Conference on Distribution Reforms held in New Delhi on 12th and 13th October, 2001 expressed their views and suggestions. The Conference of Chief Ministers on 3rd March, 2001 resolved, *inter-alia*, that the Central Government has been emphasizing the need to check power thefts in the country to restore the health of the power sector. The measures suggested are compulsory metering of all consumers, enforcement of energy audit and strict penalty against theft of power.

Cost of electricity supply to farmers

401. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that farmers pay about 10 per cent of the cost of electricity supplied; and

(b) if so, the power sector reforms proposed to be introduced to meet the loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir. The average estimated tariff for agricultural consumers for 2000-01 is 28.5 paise/ Kwh as against the estimated average cost of supply of Rs. 303.8 paise/Kwh during the said period.

(b) The measures undertaken are as follows:

(i) Government of India enacted the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998. According to the provisions of this Act, one of the guiding principles for the State Commissions while determining tariff is that the tariff progressively reflects the cost of supply of electricity at an adequate and improving level of efficiency. It also provides that if a State Government requires the grant of any subsidy to any consumer or class of consumers, the State Government shall pay the amount to compensate the person affected by the grant of subsidy in the manner the regulatory commission may direct.